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## **AFRL awards Innovative Space-Based Radar Study contract** *by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory has awarded contracts to three companies for research and development of advanced, space-based radar technology.

The contracts, “Innovative Space-Based Radar Technology (ISAT),” are funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va. They were awarded to Harris Corporation, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon.

“Military researchers are looking for new concepts in antenna design for a future space-based radar system that can track moving targets on the ground,” said James P. Ryan, program manager in AFRL’s Sensors Directorate. “DARPA’s Special Projects Office AFRL’s Sensors Directorate in Rome have

contracted with the three aerospace firms to study how to build a spaceborne antenna system.”

“The three contractor teams are working under terms of a \$2.5 million contract to investigate innovative antenna designs and conduct antenna risk reduction efforts to prove the most challenging aspects of the design and technology, while meeting the requirements associated with a tactical ground moving target indicator (GMTI) from space,” said Ryan.

The study results will ultimately help government and industry engineers integrate space-based radar and a moving target indication from space-based system. @